

### Section 3.9 Watershed Management Program Activities Throughout the Region ('Regionwide')

For purposes of watershed management, the Lahontan Region is divided into six geographic areas or Watershed Management Areas (WMAs). These WMAs are:

- **Northern** (includes the following HUs: Cowhead Lake, Surprise Valley, Bare Creek, Cedarville, Fort Bidwell, Duck Flat, Smoke Creek, Madeline Plains, Susanville, Little Truckee River, Truckee River)
- **Lake Tahoe Basin** (includes Lake Tahoe HU)
- **Carson/Walker** (includes the following HUs: West Fork Carson River, East Fork Carson River, West Walker River, East Walker River)
- **Mono/Owens** (includes the following HUs: Mono, Adobe, Owens, Fish Lake, Deep Springs, Eureka, Saline, Race Track, Amargosa, Pahrump)
- **Antelope Valley/Other Southern** (includes the following HUs: Mesquite, Ivanpah, Owlshead, Leach, Granite, Bicycle, Goldstone, Coyote, Superior, Ballarat, Trona, Coso, Upper Cactus, Indian Wells, Fremont, Antelope, Cuddeback)
- **Mojave** (includes the following HUs: Mojave, Broadwell)

Within five of the six WMAs are focus or target watersheds under WMI. These five target watersheds are:

- Lower Truckee River (Northern WMA)
- Upper Truckee River (Lake Tahoe Basin WMA),
- Carson River (Carson/Walker WMA)
- Upper Owens River-Long HA (Mono/Owens WMA)
- Mojave River (Mojave WMA)

For each of these target watersheds, a staff person is assigned as a Watershed Planning Lead to coordinate and participate in watershed activities including planning, stakeholder group meetings, and technical assistance. The Watershed Planning Lead implements public outreach and education tasks by coordinating stakeholder participation, assisting in project development for local assistance funding (e.g., CWA 319h or 205j), and working toward cooperative and collaborative solutions to nonpoint source issues within each targeted watershed. Some specific tasks of the Watershed Planning Lead include providing input into the WMI chapter update, participation in technical and other interagency groups, providing stakeholder regulatory assistance, and coordinating with other Watershed Planning Leads and staff on nonpoint source watershed issues. Other Watershed Planning Lead activities are described in Section 2 of this Chapter.

**Estimated costs for watershed management lead person activities are 0.3 to 0.5 PY per year per watershed.**

One staff serves as the overall Regional Watershed Coordinator. This staff person is responsible for coordination of watershed management activities both within the focus watersheds and throughout the rest of the Region. These tasks include communication with the five Watershed Planning Leads of the focus watersheds, program managers, and other staff on the development and implementation of regional watershed priorities, organizing watershed training opportunities, and review of relevant current publications in the field of watershed management. The Regional Watershed Coordinator also participates in statewide Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) workgroup tasks. **Estimated cost for Coordinator is 1 PY per year.**

Additional tasks are to evaluate efforts necessary to initiate watershed planning efforts in watersheds where they do not currently exist, to evaluate expanding RWQCB participation in watershed planning efforts in areas other than the five focus watersheds, and to document and evaluate existing watershed efforts within the five focus watersheds. Within the Lahontan Region, in addition to efforts within the five focus watersheds, watershed planning efforts are developing in portions of the Eagle Lake/Pine Creek drainage watershed, the Susan River watershed, the West Walker River watershed, the Mono Lake watershed, and in other portions of the Owens River watershed. With the exception of the Owens River, these areas are identified as potential aquatic diversity management areas in the *Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project: Final*

**Report to Congress** (1996). Other watersheds within the Lahontan Region included in this document are Willow Creek (Susan River/Honey Lake drainage), and Cowhead Slough (Cowhead Lake drainage). All of these areas, as well as other areas of the Region, need evaluation for potential inclusion as future focus watersheds, or as areas for more RWQCB watershed management involvement.

From Proposition 13 (Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000), the Regional Board received grant funding to support watershed management efforts in three watersheds. Staff will manage contracts for and oversee the following three projects:

- Carson River Watershed Plan and GIS
- Mono Owens Watershed Plan
- West Walker Watershed Plan

As a result of the federal Clean Water Action Plan which was released on February 19, 1998, the California Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA) was prepared. Under the lead of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the SWRCB, the UWA was prepared by a diverse working group of state and federal agencies, local agencies, Tribal Nations, watershed organizations and other interested groups. The UWA is the first step in a multi-year effort to address critical water resource issues in California. The UWA will be used to guide allocation of new federal resources for watershed protection.

The UWA placed watersheds into one of the four categories of :

- Category I -- watersheds that are candidates for increased restoration activities due to impaired water quality or other impaired natural resource goals (emphasis on aquatic systems)
- Category II -- watersheds with good water quality that, through regular program activities, can be sustained and improved
- Category III -- watersheds with pristine or sensitive areas on federal, state or tribal lands that need protection
- Category IV -- watersheds where more information is needed in order to categorize them

UWA Category Watersheds within the Region are listed below (watershed names are based on USGS CALWATER 2.0 database) With the exception of the Mojave River, all of the Region's target watersheds under WMI are also UWA Category I Priority Watersheds.

#### UWA CATEGORY I (IMPAIRED) PRIORITY WATERSHEDS

<u>Reference Number</u>	<u>Watershed Name</u>
16050101	Lake Tahoe
16050102	Truckee
16050201	Upper Carson
16050302	West Walker
18080003	Honey-Eagle Lake
18090101	Mono Lake
18090102	Crowley Lake
18090103	Owens Lake

UWA CATEGORY I (IMPAIRED) NON- PRIORITY  
WATERSHEDS

Reference Number

18080001  
18090201  
18090202  
18090205  
18090206  
18090207  
18090208  
18100100

Watershed Name

Surprise Valley  
Eureka-Saline Valleys  
Upper Amargosa  
Indian Wells-Searles Valleys  
Antelope-Fremont Valleys  
Coyote-Cuddeback Lakes  
Mojave (nothern)  
Southern Mojave

UWA CATEGORY II WATERSHEDS

Reference Number

16040203  
16040204  
17120007  
18080002

Watershed Name

Smoke Creek Desert  
Massacre Lake  
Warner Lake  
Madeline Plains

UWA CATEGORY III WATERSHEDS

Reference Number

16060010  
16060015  
18090203  
18090204

Watershed Name

Fish Lake-Soda Spring Valley  
Ivanpah-Pahrump Valleys  
Death Valley-Lower Amargosa  
Panamint Valley